

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Visit Policy Update

The Personal Correspondence Department has been evaluating visit requests based upon how long the person has been in contact with the Church, the literature the person has read, etc. The procedure they follow was explained in the March 18, 1983 PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT.

However, it has come to our attention that we are receiving many visit requests with telephone numbers. These people have asked that the minister call them. Therefore, as a matter of courtesy, you should call everyone who gives his or her telephone number.

Personal Correspondence has been instructed to put red visit stickers on all visit requests with telephone numbers, regardless of how little knowledge the person seems to have concerning the Church, its doctrines, etc. They will also tell the person to expect a call from you.

International News

From the British Office At the annual board meetings held at Elstree House (the British Office), we had the pleasure of welcoming Mr. Leroy Neff and Mr. Leslie McCullough and their wives. All the full-time staff at Elstree House had the opportunity to meet with our guests on June 1st at a special luncheon. On the Sabbath (June 2nd) Mr. Neff spoke to a congregation of 1,200 in London, while Mr. McCullough spoke to the combined churches in Glasgow. Mr. Armstrong had planned to attend but had to postpone his visit.

The second READER'S DIGEST ad has begun to bring in a good response with 3,788 new subscriptions already requested. PLAIN TRUTH circulation in the U.K. is now up 41.8% over this time last year, with a 16.2% increase in GOOD NEWS subscribers, 19.7% increase in donors and a 15.5% increase in co-workers. Mail income year-to-date is up 8%.

In response to the advertising campaign in Scandinavia, 13,647 new readers have been added to the Norwegian list and almost 2,000 to the English list. Growth in the Scandinavian Work is also evident in a 34.9% increase in co-workers and 15.1% increase in donors over 1983.

PLAIN TRUTH circulation on the continent of Europe now stands at almost 35,000, which is 28.9% more than May 1983. This growth is mainly due to spin-offs from advertising by other offices. There has not been any direct promotion of the English PT in this area, apart from a small newsstand program in Malta (900 magazines per issue). The GOOD NEWS list is also growing in this area, with a 4.7% increase over April 1983 and 42.3% over May 1983. Donors are up 29.1% and co-workers 92.7% over 1983.

It is gratifying to have a minister now living and working in the Middle East. Mr. Ray Clore, a consular official in the employ of the U.S. State

Department, accepted an assignment to work in the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem, and has now been there since January of this year. Mr. Clore and his wife, Rhonda, have been very busy organizing visiting tours and conducting church services on their own time. Growth in the Middle East is also excellent, with the PLAIN TRUTH list now over 10,000.

Feast of Tabernacles preparations are going well, with the following numbers allocated to each site: Torquay--1,071; Jersey--1,126; Tenby--1,328; Scarborough--1,024; Denmark--257 and Italy--761. Please note that the sites at Tenby and Torquay are now full and no further transfer requests can be considered.

From Canada May began on a very positive note. We saw the fruition of many months of work when Revenue Canada ruled that third tithe and excess second tithe would qualify as tax deductible. This will certainly be an added blessing to many of the members. Also, Canada Post is still reviewing our application for second class mail. They recently requested more information about the magazine.

Printing The PLAIN TRUTH during May presented us with some interesting challenges. As the recovery in the U.S. economy began to spread, demand for paper, which had been very soft, suddenly became strong. So much so, the industry has gone from having a more than adequate supply twelve months ago to not being able to meet the industry's demands. This was compounded by the strike/lockout in British Columbia's pulp mills. Unfortunately, Lawson's (our printer) found themselves short of paper at a most critical time--just as we gave them our largest print order: over one million magazines! We tried to assist them by having Pasadena approach Donnelley's, our U.S. printer, to see if they would free up any paper stock, a normal procedure between print shops. However, these are not normal times, and Donnelley's could not fulfill Lawson's request.

After trying various sources in North America, Lawson's could not obtain enough paper to print the entire PT run. Faced with this problem, we were able to solve the difficulty by utilizing the printing plants in England and the U.S. Fortunately, we caught the tail end of the U.S. print run and David Gunn assured us the printer in England had enough paper to handle an extra 110,000 magazines. He did mention that U.S. companies were buying so much paper in Europe that it was forcing the price up. Having England print their newsstand copies may become a permanent arrangement.

Income for May was up an encouraging 18.6%, bringing the year-to-date increase to 15.5%. Incoming mail by the end of May was 40,481, up 29.6%, and outgoing mail was up by 189.8%.

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

From the United States

PHILADELPHIA, PA--CARLOS PERKINS: It was a great treat for the members to visit Mt. Pocono for the purpose of hearing Mr. Armstrong. It never ceases to amaze me how a man of his age can get so much done, and with such power. Obviously our God is sustaining him.

LAFAYETTE, IN--DAN FRICKE: The Ministerial Refreshing Program has proven not only to be scintillating to the ministry, it is generating ongoing interest and excitement in the members. Realizing they are receiving the core of material given to the ministry at the Refresher causes a recharging of their spiritual batteries just as it does for the ministry. The MRP is having a very positive impact on the whole Church.

MONROE, LA--BRISCOE ELLETT: We recently had a great door opened to us for the PT Newsstand Program. A regional manager for a chain of 15 stores gave us approval to go in all of his stores! We could barely contain our glee as we left his office. Many PMs are showing solid interest and growth. It stimulates us all!

PASADENA (SPANISH), CA--RAUL RAMOS: Mr. Flores' death came as a surprise to many of the brethren but their faith has remained unshaken. They were encouraged by Mr. Robin Webber's funeral service and Mrs. Flores' strong example. Her involvement in the food preparation for the Chili Cook-off concession stand had a positive effect on the brethren.

LAKE CRYSTAL, MN--VICTOR KUBIK: One of our new PMs who had a problem with alcoholism came in contact with God's Church in an unusual way. One Saturday night he came home despondently drunk, turned on the TV and passed out. He was awakened by Mr. Armstrong at 7:00 a.m. and took note of what Mr. Armstrong said. He wrote in for the literature and subsequently became involved in the Church. He now attends services and wants to be baptized.

From the Caribbean

BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS--ARNOLD HAMPTON: I have concluded a series of sermons on the Sermon on the Mount. It has shown the Church here the depth of the spirit of the law and the need to clean the inside of the cup more than polishing the outside. It has certainly produced significant spiritual growth among the members, and I hope and pray that this growth continues.

NASSAU, BAHAMAS--KINGSLEY MATHER: The brethren are in high spirits about the summer camp in Eleuthera and the Feast of Tabernacles in Freeport. God continues to bless His Church with new PMs. It appears that 1984 will be a banner year for growth.

KINGSTON, JAMAICA--CHARLES B. FLEMING: The single biggest pressure on the membership as a whole is the worsening of the economic situation. Since December of last year, the dollar has been devalued 56%. In addition, many of the basic foods that the government used to subsidize are no longer subsidized, so inflation is almost unbelievable. The price of the most economical meat--chicken--has increased three times already this year. In addition, an outbreak of violence involving the use of M16 and AK47 assault rifles is greatly troubling the people, since the police were not able to contain it. We are all praying that we do not see a recurrence of the violence of 1979-80.

****** TO BE READ IN ALL CONGREGATIONS ******Cassette Tapes for the Handicapped

Audio cassette tapes of the Church's literature are available on a three-week loan basis to those who are blind or otherwise physically handicapped so that they are not able to read.

The PLAIN TRUTH, GOOD NEWS and WORLDWIDE NEWS tapes are mailed two to three weeks after the printed editions. Selected articles from YOUTH 84 are included with The GOOD NEWS.

All of the current booklets are also available. And The AMBASSADOR COLLEGE BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE is on cassette tapes through Lesson 18. Lesson 19 will be completed shortly.

Those who have a need and wish to subscribe to this service should write to:

Worldwide Church of God
Educational Services for the Handicapped
Pasadena, CA 91123

--Media Services

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSINGSteady Progress at Big Sandy WATS Operation

The growth and development of the Telephone Response department at Big Sandy has been encouraging. During the month of May operators answered over 10,000 calls.

Present plans call for a move into two of the buildings formerly occupied by Imperial Schools. This larger facility will more comfortably house the WATS operation and will also allow us to add 22 more lines, bringing the total number to 50. Several computer terminals are also to be installed. Part of the Big Sandy WATS staff will be trained to add new names and addresses to our files and process literature requests.

Training for "direct terminal entry" (a procedure which allows operators to add names and process literature requests while talking with the person on the phone) will begin shortly. And a smaller "outside production" team has been established at Big Sandy to give operators productive work between periods of heavy phone activity, just as we do here at Pasadena.

We certainly are pleased with the excellent job Mr. Frank Parsons and his staff are doing. We're also grateful for the support of Mr. Les McCullough, the Big Sandy administration, the student body and local Church members.

Church Literature Provides Long Sought Answers

Many people who come in contact with God's Church are amazed at what they are learning and often mention that their lifelong questions are now being answered. Some have searched for the truth over a period of years, or even decades, and are thrilled that God has finally led them to His Church. The following comments convey the zeal and enthusiasm of those discovering God's truth through our literature.

How I wish I had known about you, The PLAIN TRUTH and the booklets that I receive and love, sooner. I am sixty years old and never had a goal in life until these past few months, due to your teaching. I desperately needed to know more.

D.M. (Belleville, NJ)

I started reading The PLAIN TRUTH magazine approximately six months ago and I must tell you that it has affected me deeply. Also, I have read some of the booklets offered free of charge, and enrolled in the Bible correspondence course.

I was raised in "religion" but never felt satisfied--so many questions remained unanswered, so many explanations and interpretations seemed inadequate. Through the years, I have spoken with many people of various churches and beliefs and found myself even more confused.

I now know that I have at last found the truth. By reading, studying and listening to Mr. Armstrong's broadcasts, I find that my doubts are being put to rest and my questions are being answered, sometimes in such rapid succession that it is almost breathtaking.

J.J. (Dover, NH)

I can't believe what a difference it makes to read just one article from your timely magazine. The articles are enriching and the information you give is priceless. Your booklets have also benefited me tremendously. I have finally found the answers to important questions and I'm experiencing a more total inner peace.

A.G. (Goshen, CA)

Please send me the free literature as listed. I do want to thank you dearly for the booklets that I have already received. They have helped me tremendously. They have answered my questions and erased my doubts. They also helped me to answer questions asked by my children. Thank you for the literature that I can pass on to them. I'm 61, a Catholic and not ashamed to admit that I have learned more this year through your literature than I have since I've been able to read and I now understand what life is all about.

A.K. (Aliquippa, PA)

I've been a subscriber to your magazines for seven years now. In addition, I've taken your Bible correspondence course. I've read this material and compared it to the Bible and the customs in which I was raised. I've gone to the point of consulting numer-

ous ministers with all my questions and absolutely not one could answer more than two of my questions. The material that I've received from your magazines has ALL the answers to my questions.

Mrs. R.T. (Dayton, OH)

I have recently become interested in your literature. It is extremely eye-opening. Your material has made me realize all the questions I had about the Bible in the past may be answered. In just one issue of The PLAIN TRUTH my eyes have been opened about so many things. I have already sent in a card for my year's subscription, but listed below are some other booklets I am interested in.

P.T. (Linden, TX)

For the past year I have read your literature and my Bible is now so clear--just like a jigsaw puzzle being completed. As I told one of your ministers on the phone, just as I form a question in my mind, the next booklet I read gives the answer. I am growing in the knowledge of my Lord.

G.O. (Williston, TN)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

PHASE-DOWN OF U.S. NATO TROOPS BARELY AVERTED; "EURO-ELECTIONS" A BAROMETER OF POLITICAL TRENDS

I had cleared passport control in Vienna, Austria and was about to board my flight to London where I was to connect with the polar flight to Los Angeles. I hurried to the newsstand where I picked up a copy of the SUNDAY TIMES of Britain, dated June 17. The headline running across all seven columns at the top read "U.S. Senate Set to take 100,000 NATO Troops Home."

The article described legislation in the form of an amendment to the defense budget authorization bill, which was working its way through the upper house of the U.S. Congress. It would, if signed into law, call for a phase of withdrawal of approximately a third of U.S. troops in Europe, beginning in 1986 or 1987.

The actual intent by the authors of the bill is to issue a signal to European NATO members to increase their spending on conventional armaments. Beset with continuing economic woes, most European governments within the alliance have been falling considerably short of their agreed targets of real annual rises of three percent in defense spending.

President Reagan is adamantly against the legislation. He feels that to put such pressure on America's allies in Europe will not have the desired effect, but that it will simply add to already somewhat sour transatlantic feelings. Only two weeks before, the President had delivered a stirring speech on the shores of Normandy Beach commemorating the 40th anniversary of D-Day. In it he stressed that "America had learned its lesson"--that it is far better for the U.S. to keep peacetime forces on the continent indefinitely than to have to rush in, as in World Wars I and II, with a mighty army to deliver the nations of Europe from bondage.

As we go to press, the President has apparently prevailed, thanks to a lot of old-fashioned arm-twisting, even of legislators in his own party. Nevertheless, the forces advocating phase-down will keep up the pressure, since, as the TIMES report added: "It is difficult to see how the Europeans will ever reach the levels of munitions and other basic support systems that the Americans are demanding and there is little prospect that the Europeans will meet the demand for a 3% increase in defence spending. The stage appears to be set for a serious transatlantic fight over the future of NATO."

"European Pillar" Launched

The on-again off-again threat of a U.S. troop pullout naturally has its impact in Western Europe. While Mr. Armstrong's party was in Paris, a very important meeting was taking place between the foreign ministers of seven West European countries. On June 12 they cautiously agreed to relaunch the Western European Union--a long-dormant defense-consultation body--as their collective voice within the transatlantic alliance. French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson emphasized that the WEU could eventually become a "European pillar" within NATO.

The meeting, observed John Vinocur of the NEW YORK TIMES, "was the first high-level gathering of European leaders to discuss a theme that has become known as 'Europeanization.' The meaning of the phrase varies with the user, but in general it has come to signify the desire of some European governments to increase their political role in formulating alliance policy without alienating the United States."

Some of the members of the WEU--which comprises Britain, Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and West Germany--are not as excited as France or Belgium about the prospect of what some call a "NATO within NATO." In particular, Britain and the Netherlands have expressed reservations. The British firmly believe that a strengthened WEU could further weaken the American commitment to the defense of Europe.

West Germany is also known to be fearful of the U.S. reaction should the WEU structure--to be discussed further at a fall meeting in Italy--appear to be too independent. Nevertheless, the Bonn government appears to be hedging its future bets a bit by encouraging greater military cooperation with France.

In a practical demonstration of French-German cooperation, both governments, according to the May 28 AVIATION WEEK AND SPACE TECHNOLOGY, are expected to sign a joint memorandum of understanding for the development of a new antitank helicopter by early July. The first flight of a prototype could be in 1987, and the first delivery--to the French military--could be as early as 1991.

Also, reports the SUNDAY TELEGRAPH of June 17: "The joint development of a military reconnaissance satellite is being discussed between France and West Germany. President Mitterrand wants the satellite primarily to improve targeting data for French land and sea-based ballistic missiles. Dr. Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, is being encouraged to back the project to obtain advance warning of changes in Warsaw Pact military deployments which could herald an attack on Western Europe. Britain so far has shown little interest, preferring to rely on American intelligence information."

Euro-elections

While we were in Vienna, Austria, voters in the ten nations of the European Community went to the polls to elect representatives to the European Parliament. (Austria, of course, being a neutral country outside the E.C., did not participate.) The greatest impact of the so-called "Euro-elections" was that they served as a barometer of voter support or displeasure on national, rather than European, issues within each country.

In Britain, for example, there appears to be a growing feeling that the average working person in Britain is feeling the pinch of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's economic reforms, which have resulted in hikes in basic services. This negative mood was translated into a loss of 15 conservative party seats to the opposition Labor Party--even though this in no way reflects the balance of power in Westminster. But it could indicate a trend.

In France, disaffection with the rule of Socialist President Francois Mitterrand was reflected in a solid victory for the Conservative slate of candidates who pulled 41% as opposed to 30% for the Socialists. A far-rightist group advocating the expulsion of France's two million immigrants and "guest workers" also pulled a surprisingly strong response.

In Italy, the sudden death of popular Communist Party chief Enrico Berlinguer resulted in a swelling of sympathetic support for the Communist Party, which, for the first time in Italian political history, outpolled the Christian Democrats (33.3% to 32.9%).

Perhaps the biggest setback was felt by the government of West Germany. In its own Euro-election round, the Free Democratic Party, a small coalition group allied with the Christian Democrats in the Bundestag, failed to clear the five percent vote required for further European Parliament representation. Instead, their seats, and more, were grabbed by the anti-war, radical environmentalist "Greens," who got a comfortable 8.2% of the vote.

Writing from Bonn, Los Angeles TIMES reporter Tyler Marshall analyzed the outcome as follows:

Although the importance of European Parliament representation is symbolic rather than substantive, the Free Democrats' dismal showing is both a psychological blow and a clear indication of just how much support the party has lost since scrapping its coalition agreement with the Social Democratic Party of then-Chancellor Helmut Schmidt in September, 1982. The following month, a Christian Democratic-Free Democratic coalition won general elections.

The Free Democrats' humiliation at losing their four seats in the European Parliament and at falling below the Greens is expected to deepen concern within the Kohl Cabinet and add to criticism of [FDP party leader and government Foreign Minister] Genscher....

Genscher announced last month that he will not seek reelection as party leader when his term expires in 1986. If he is forced to resign his party chairmanship earlier than that, he would almost certainly have to give up his Cabinet post.... The party's only other prominent figure, Economics Minister Otto Lambsdorff, has

been indicted on bribery charges and could be forced to resign shortly.

Significantly, Bavarian Minister-President Franz Josef Strauss has long predicted the inevitable demise of the Free Democrats. He has said that their obvious lack of support did not entitle them to keep top cabinet posts. Will Strauss now put almost unbearable pressure on Chancellor Helmut Kohl to have himself installed as West German foreign or economics minister--or both? How long can Mr. Kohl keep Herr Strauss biding his time in Munich?

Not too many people were excited by elections for Europe's Parliament, a body still lacking in real power. Most of Britain, in fact, was "ablaze with indifference" about the voting, according to one television announcer. Nevertheless, the elections had considerable secondary impact and provided a possible tip-off of things to come.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau